

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 18 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A water-dispersible cellulose,

the water-dispersible cellulose being derived from a plant cell wall having starting cellulosic substance, wherein the starting cellulosic substance ~~if an average degree of polymerization of the cellulose is 400-1300, then has~~ an  $\alpha$ -cellulose content ~~is of~~ 60-90% by weight and an average degree of polymerization of 400-1300, and if an average degree of polymerization of the cellulose is greater than 1300, then or the starting cellulosic substance has an  $\alpha$ -cellulose content ~~is of~~ 60-100% by weight and an average degree of polymerization greater than 1,300,

the water-dispersible cellulose being crystalline having a crystallinity of ~~more than~~ 50% 55% or more, and fine fibrous, and

the water-dispersible cellulose comprising 30% by weight or more of a component stably suspensible in water, wherein the component comprises a fibrous cellulose having a length (major axis) of 0.5-30  $\mu$ m and a width (minor axis) of 2-600 nm, and a length/width ratio (major axis/minor axis) of 20-400, and

the water-dispersible cellulose ~~and~~ having a loss tangent of less than 1, when made into a 0.5% by weight aqueous dispersion.

2. (Previously presented) The water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 1, comprising 50% by weight or more of the component stably suspensible in water and having the loss tangent of less than 0.6, when made into a 0.5% by weight aqueous dispersion.

3. (Previously presented) An aqueous suspension-form composition, comprising: the water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 1 or 2 in an amount of 0.0005-7% by weight and water.

4-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A food composition, comprising: the water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 1 or 2.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A water-dispersible cellulose,  
the water-dispersible cellulose being derived from cell wall tissue of a plant, the water dispersible cellulose not being derived from any source selected from the group consisting of excluding raw cotton, papilus grass, paper mulberry, paper bush, gampi, beet pulp, and fruit fiber pulp,  
the water-dispersible cellulose being crystalline having a crystallinity of more than 50% and fine fibrous, and  
the water-dispersible cellulose comprising 30% by weight or more of a component stably suspensible in water and having a loss tangent of less than 1, when made into a 0.5% by weight aqueous dispersion.

19. (Previously presented) A water-dispersible cellulose,  
the water-dispersible cellulose being derived from cell wall tissue of a plant having starting cellulosic substance, wherein the starting cellulosic substance has an  $\alpha$ -cellulose content of greater than 60% by weight and an average degree of polymerization of greater than 400,  
the water-dispersible cellulose being crystalline having a crystallinity of more than 50% and fine fibrous, and  
the water-dispersible cellulose comprising 30% by weight or more of a component stably suspensible in water and having a loss tangent of less than 1, when made into a 0.5% by weight aqueous dispersion.

20. (Previously presented) The water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 18, comprising 50% by weight or more of the component stably suspensible in water and having the loss tangent of less than 0.6, when made into a 0.5% by weight aqueous dispersion.

21. (Withdrawn) An aqueous suspension-form composition, comprising: the water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 18 or 20 in an amount of 0.0005-7% by weight and water.

22. (Previously Presented) A food composition, comprising: the water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 18 or 20.

23. (Previously Presented) The water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 19, comprising 50% by weight or more of the component stably suspensible in water and having the loss tangent of less than 0.6, when made into a 0.5% by weight aqueous dispersion.

24. (Withdrawn) An aqueous suspension-form composition, comprising: the water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 19 or 23 in an amount of 0.0005-7% by weight and water.

25. (Previously Presented) A food composition, comprising: the water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 19 or 23.